

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 L-01 INR-05

NSC-05 NSCE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 H-01 TRSE-00 EUR-08 NEA-07

/051 W

-----162356Z 060486 /13

R 161410Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6854

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CINCPAC

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T NAIROBI 3422

LIMDIS

CINCPAC AND USCINCEUR FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KE, ET, IR, TC

SUBJECT: KENYAN/IRANIAN COOPERATION

1. IN COURSE OF MARCH 15 CALL AT KENYA DEFENSE MINISTRY, PERMSEC KIEREINI BRIEFED DCM ON HIS FEBRUARY VISIT TO TEHRAN TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE IRANIAN ARMS AND OTHER AID TO KENYA. KENYAN DELEGATION, WHICH WAS HEADED BY ATTORNEY GENERAL CHARLES NJONJO, ALSO INCLUDED KENYAN INTELLIGENCE CHIEF JAMES KANYOTU, AND BRUCE MCKENZIE, KENYAN BUSINESSMAN AND FORMER MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE.

2. ALTHOUGH IRANIANS MADE NO OFFER OF ARMS AID, TWO SIDES DID AGREE THAT CHIEF, IRANIAN INTELLIGENCE (SAVAK), SHOULD
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VISIT KENYA IN NEAR FUTURE TO DISCUSS BILATERAL INTELLIGENCE COOPERATION. OF GREATER IMPORTANCE, ACCORDING TO KIEREINI, WAS MEETING WITH SHAH WHICH GAVE ARTICULATE ATTORNEY GENERAL OPPORTUNITY TO PERSUADE HIM THAT TWO COUNTRIES HAVE ENOUGH IN COMMON IDEOLOGICALLY AND STRATEGICALLY TO PROVIDE BASIS FOR COOPERATION IN OTHER FIELDS. ALTHOUGH KIEREINI FELT RECENT SUCCESSFUL

VISIT TO MOMBASA BY THREE IRANIAN NAVY VESSELS (IN RESPONSE TO INVITATION EXTENDED BY KENYAN DELEGATION) SHOULD HAVE BENEFICIAL EFFECT ON BILATERAL RELATIONS, HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SHAH WOULD BE "DIFFICULT" TO CONVINCE QUICKLY THAT IT WOULD BE IN IRAN'S INTEREST TO BUILD SIGNIFICANTLY CLOSER TIES WITH KENYA.

3. ASIDE FROM RAISING POSSIBILITY OF ASSISTANCE TO KENYA, KIEREINI SAID KENYAN TEAM MADE UNSUCCESSFUL PLEA TO SHAH TO TRY, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, TO INFLUENCE PRESENT ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT TO LESSEN ITS INCREASINGLY LEFT ORIENTATION. KIEREINI SAID OMANIS HAD ALSO BEEN TAKING THIS LINE WITH IRANIANS, BUT THUS FAR WITHOUT SUCCESS. SHAH, HOWEVER, TOLD KENYANS HE REMAINED ABSOLUTELY CONVINCED THAT ETHIOPIA IS "LOST" AND THAT IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO DIVERT MENGISTU FROM HIS PRESENT COURSE OF DRAWING ETHIOPIA INTO A MUCH CLOSER RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.
MARSHALL

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NNN

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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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